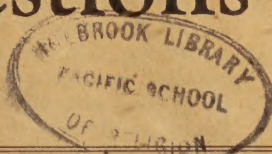


Social Questions Bulletin



The Federation for Social Action, an unofficial membership organization, founded in 1907, seeks to deepen within the Church, the sense of social obligation and opportunity to study, from the Christian point of view, social problems and their solutions and to promote social action in the spirit of Jesus. The Federation stands for the complete abolition of war. The Federation rejects the method of the struggle for profit as the economic base for society and seeks to replace it with social-economic planning to develop a society without class or group discriminations and privileges. In seeking these objectives, the Federation does not commit its members to any specific program, but remains an inspirational and educational agency, proposing social changes by democratic decisions, not by violence.

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SUMMER, 1959

Number 6

Supreme Court Civil Liberty Decisions in Peril

By FRANK WILKINSON

time has come when the Supreme Court must be curbed and it is today the greatest single menace to domestic security and of this country."—Senator James O. Eastland, Mississippi; Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee; Author of legislation (recommended by the Bar Association) to nullify Supreme Court's civil liberties decisions. The Supreme Court is under attack today because its recent decisions making human dignity and human freedom have gone contrary to the segregationist politicians in the South and security-mad politicians North."—Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., Americans for Democratic Action.

Eastland—Walter—ABA Lead Attack

February 24, 1959, the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Communist Tactics, Strategy and Objectives presented a report calling for the nullification of 24 Supreme Court civil liberties decisions. The ABA House of Delegates passed a resolution embodying most of the Special Committee's suggestions without omitting some of its wilder charges against the Court.

March 5, 1959, Senator Eastland introduced seven bills to carry out the ABA recommendations to correct certain decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States. Companion bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Francis Walter, Chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee. Additional anti-court bills have been introduced by other Congressmen in both Houses.

Congress' Action Near

Public hearings on 14 or more of these bills have been conducted by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Internal Security. The bills now pending action by the Senate. Similar legislation narrowly defeated by the Senate in the closing hours of the last Congress.

The House of Representatives passed a number of last year's bills overturning the Supreme Court's civil liberties decisions. Bills damaging civil liberties have already been passed by the House this year. The House Judiciary Committee has announced that it will not hold public hearings and has already passed out key-court bills. The House Committee on Un-American Activities has stated that its recent hearings have been conducted in support of certain of these measures.

Who Are the Sponsors?

All these bills are being passed upon the House and Senate coalition of Southern Congressmen violently opposed to the Supreme Court's school desegregation decision and Northern Congressmen equally opposed to the Court's reaffirmation of the Bill of Rights.

Following are the members of the committee which authored the latest attack upon the Supreme Court's civil liberties decisions: Peter Campbell Brown, former Chairman of the Subversive Activities Control Board; Louis B. Nichols, formerly press expert for J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI, with whom he worked 23 years, and now Executive Vice-President of Schenley Brothers; Louis Crosby Wyman, New Hampshire's Attorney General, who was overruled by the Supreme Court in the Sweezy case supporting academic freedom, and formerly head of the firm which represented the Metropolitan Life, Prudential and Equitable Insurance Companies; Kendrick Smith, an attorney representing the Anaconda Mining Company, Montana Power Company and the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific Railroads;

and Egbert L. Haywood, an attorney representing the Panhandle & Eastern Pipeline Company.

These and other members of the ABA Special Committee have been involved on the losing side of cases recently before the Supreme Court.

WHAT THE ANTI-COURT BILLS WOULD DO

A Summary

State Sedition Laws (Nelson Decision)

The Supreme Court Ruled: That the Federal Smith Act preempted this field and therefore state "anti-sedition" laws were not enforceable.

The Eastland-Walter-ABA Bills Would: Permit the States to enforce their "anti-sedition" laws. In the South, "sedition" is construed by some to include the peaceful implementation of the Court's desegregation rulings. State "sedition" laws are notoriously vague and lacking in Constitutional guarantees. New and more drastic State laws have been introduced in anticipation of the reversal of the Nelson decision. (S-1299).

Smith Act Definitions (Yates Decision)

The Supreme Court Ruled: That the Act does not make mere abstract advocacy of forcible government overthrow a Federal crime; and defined the word "organize" as meaning only those who form a new organization.

The Eastland-Walter Bills would: Permit punishment for such advocacy "in any way or by any means" and "without regard to the immediate probable effect of such action"; and redefine "organize" to include the recruitment of additional members and forming new units of an organization. (S-527, S-300, S-305, HR-2369, HR-1991).

Denial of 1st and 5th Amendment Rights to Public Employees (Slochower Decision)

The Supreme Court Ruled: That it was a violation of due process of law to discharge a public employee on the sole ground that he had exercised his Constitutional rights under the 5th Amendment before a Congressional Committee.

The Eastland-Walter Bills Would: Place an absolute and mandatory requirement upon every Federal employee to answer every question before every governmental body regardless of the relevance or constitutionality of the question asked. (S-1301).

Deportation & Control of Aliens (Witkovich and Bonetti Decisions)

The Supreme Court Ruled: That an alien awaiting deportation under the Walter-McCarran Act is required to give information to authorities only regarding his availability and not regarding his political associations and activities; and that an alien shall be judged solely on the basis of his behavior since his most recent entry into the United States.

The Eastland-Walter Bills Would: Require an alien awaiting deportation to answer questions regarding his political associations and activities and permit him to be imprisoned without trial for failure to do so; and threaten an alien with deportation for proscribed political associations during earlier visits to the United States. (S-1302).

Denial of Passports for Political Associations (Kent-Briehl-Dayton Decisions).

The Supreme Court Ruled: That the Secretary of State did not have Congressional authorization to deny passports for political and other reasons.

The Eastland-Walter Bills Would: Permit the Secretary of State to deny a passport on the basis of "confidential information" even if he has "reason to believe" that a person's trip "would not" otherwise be "prejudicial to the interests of the United States." Passports could be denied if the Secretary decided that the applicant might be going abroad to "further the aims and objectives" of proscribed organizations, or if the applicant refused to inform the State Department regarding past political associations.

Extension of Federal Loyalty-Security Program to "Non-Sensitive" Jobs (Cole Decision).

The Supreme Court Ruled: That the Federal-Loyalty Security program (summary Suspension Act of 1950) was applicable only to Federal employees in certain "sensitive" governmental agencies.

The Eastland-Walter Bills Would: Extend the summary power of suspension and dismissal to cover Federal employees engaged in "non-Sensitive" as well as "sensitive" governmental work. (S-1304, HR-1989).

WRITE YOUR SENATORS TODAY! URGE DEFEAT OF EASTLAND BILLS TO REVERSE SUPREME COURT CIVIL LIBERTY DECISIONS. ALERT OTHERS TO ACT. Write for more information to : Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, 421 7th Ave., N. Y. City 1; Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedoms, 617 W. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles 4; or Chicago Committee to Defend Democratic Rights, 189 W. Madison St., Chicago.

WHY DEFEAT EASTLAND-WALTER BILL FOR STATE SEDITION LAWS

A hair-raising story of how state sedition laws can be used against people advocating integration in the South was told by Carl Braden at the M.F.S.A. meeting in St. Louis.

Braden is now a field secretary and editor for The Southern Conference Educational Fund, a group working for integration in the South. For 24 years prior to 1954 he was a writer and their editor for newspapers in Kentucky and Tennessee.

His wife, Anne, is editor of the Southern Patriot, an integrationist organ published by the S.C.E.F., but previously worked for 10 years as a writer for newspapers in Alabama and Kentucky. She has written a book on race relations, "The Wall Between," based on the couple's experiences in Louisville, Ky.

In the spring of 1954 the Bradens were visited at their home in Louisville by a Negro friend, Andrew Wade, who asked them to help him buy a house in the suburbs. Wade and his wife, Charlotte, had one child and were expecting another.

He was an electrical contractor and they had saved for seven years to buy a home. The Wades were desperate for a decent place, as only 300 new homes had been built for Louisville's 65,000 Negroes in a nine-year period. Negroes were forced to live in rundown property in a restricted area.

The Wades found several houses they liked in the suburbs, but the deal fell through each time because the sellers found out their color. Finally a white real-estate man suggested that they get white friends to buy a house for them.

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An unofficial fellowship founded in 1907.

President, Dr. Loyd F. Worlev; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Frederick E. Ball, Rev. Arthur Crawford, Rev. Clarence T. R. Nelson, Rev. Elwin E. Wilson; Recording Secretaries, Mrs. Ella Mulkey, Miss Janice Roberts; Treasurer, Rev. Edward L. Peet.

Acting Executive Secretary, Rev. Lee H. Ball

Membership and West Coast Field Secretary, Rev. Mark A. Chamberlin

Editor, "Social Questions Bulletin," Rev. Jack R. McMichael

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The Bradens agreed to do this. With \$1,500 provided the Wades, they made a down payment on a house in a development just outside the city limits. The total price \$11,300, and they gave a first mortgage to a building and association and a second mortgage to the builder, James I. R.

The deal was completed on May 10, 1954, and the Bradens deeded the property to the Wades three days later.

Braden said the method of obtaining the house has been criticized in some quarters because it was supposedly "deceitful." He pointed out, however, that there was no other way for the Wades to obtain a house. He said that persons criticizing the method used by the Wades and Bradens have not yet provided a substitute method.

"If we had refused to help the Wades buy the house," Braden said, "we would have been joining the conspiracy against the Negro people which is fostered by the banks, realtors, building and loan associations, builders, and others who want to maintain segregated housing."

"This we could not do. To refuse to oppose evil is to condone it. We felt that we had a greater obligation to the Wades as members of an oppressed group than to those favoring segregated housing. We believe completely in an integrated society and we try to preach what we preach."

The day after the Wades moved into their new home, the Supreme Court issued its historic decision in the School Segregation Cases. This served to inflame passions all over the South and caused a burst of anger which still boils in that region.

Part of this anger found an outlet against the Wades and Bradens. The Wades' house was stoned and fired into with rifles. A cross was burned nearby in the middle of the night. A mob visited the Bradens in the middle of the night and threatened their home and their two small children. Finally the Wades' home was blown up with dynamite.

It became generally known that the bombing was done by neighbors who wanted the Wades to move. The Louisville office of police later testified that the builder, Rone, or some member of his family was the chief suspect.

Yet authorities did nothing to bring the bombers to justice. Instead, a grand jury investigation was aimed at the Bradens and several white persons who had sought to protect the Wades from mob violence.

The prosecutor, Commonwealth's Attorney A. Scott Hamilton, offered the theory that the Bradens plotted the purchase and bombing of the house to bring about racial strife which would bring on a political revolution and cause the overthrow of the government by force and violence.

So the grand jury indicted the Bradens and four others on charges of advocating sedition or criminal syndicalism. This was done under a sedition law that had been on the Kentucky statute books since 1920 but had never been used.

These six and one other white man were also charged with conspiring to bomb the property "to achieve a political end." A white truck driver who had helped guard the Wade home was accused of actually bombing the house, although he was in Milwaukee the night of the dynamiting.

The Bradens were thrown into jail under \$10,000 bonds, which they were unable to provide for days and weeks. Their children, Jimmy and Anita, were 3 and 1½ years old at the time. They had to be taken care of by friends and neighbors until Mr. Braden's parents could drive from Alabama and get them.

Hamilton led two raids on the Braden home during which more than 500 books were seized from a library containing about 3,500 volumes. It was found later, when the books were introduced in court, that certain damaging documents had been mixed with the Bradens' books.

Carl Braden's trial on the sedition charge lasted two weeks, resulting in a verdict of guilty on Dec. 13, 1954. Because it was just 12 days before Christmas, the jurors decided to give him 15 years in prison and fine him \$5,000 instead of sentencing him to 21 years and a \$10,000 fine, as they could have done.

The trial was featured by testimony of nine professional informers provided by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The investigators for this committee had also given Wade the third degree in an effort to force him to say that the Bradens put him up to buying the house. He refused.

None of the professional witnesses had ever been in Kentucky and none had ever heard of the Bradens. They testified about the Communist Party; they said that books seized at

Braden's home were similar to some used in party courses elsewhere.

One of the informers asked an assistant prosecutor which one of the men seated at the defense table was Braden; then he had to identify Braden as a former Communist Party member. Fortunately, Braden's chief counsel had heard the informer ask the prosecutor to identify Braden.

One Louisville witness who had also come under attack for participation in the Wade defense, testified that she knew Braden to be a Communist. When defense attorneys demanded to see reports she claimed to have made to the F.B.I., they were refused. Braden denied her testimony.

Braden was returned to jail under \$40,000 bond—the highest ever set in Kentucky for any offense. Unable to raise the bond, he was taken to the state prison. There he was kept in solitary confinement for two months on the pretext that prison officials wished to protect him from attack by other prisoners.

Freed under bond after serving a total of eight months, Braden traveled back and forth across the United States and into Canada raising money to pay attorneys and other costs. It cost the Bradens and other defendants a total of \$35,000 to win vindication; of this the Bradens still owe \$5,000 in the form of a bond mortgage on their home.

Braden and the others were freed of all charges when the U.S. Supreme Court declared state sedition laws inoperative. Now Senator Eastland of Mississippi and Rep. Walter of the Un-American Committee have bills in the House and Senate to revive the state sedition laws.

Braden pointed out that this would open the way for an orgy of state prosecutions against integrationists in the South and other dissenters elsewhere. He urged his listeners to write senators and representatives to oppose the bills.

Mrs. Braden's book, "The Wall Between," was published by the Monthly Review Press in July, 1958. It does not deal gently with the Un-American Committee. Eight days after its publication, the Bradens were summoned to appear before the committee. Mrs. Braden was excused but Carl Braden went before the committee in Atlanta, Ga.

He refused to answer questions about his work and that of the S.C.E.F. in the integration movement. Braden based his refusal on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as did Frank Wilkinson, who appeared on the same day. Both were held for contempt of Congress and sentenced to 12 months in prison. They have appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Braden asked his listeners to protest to the U.S. Attorney General in Washington against these latest prosecutions for advocating integration.

ST. LOUIS MEETING ELECTS NEW MFSA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The 1959 National Membership Meeting of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, St. Louis, May 29-31, adopted the report presented by Rev. Frederick Ball for a special personnel committee, and elected the Rev. Lee Hampton Ball as Acting Executive Secretary. Mr. Ball serves without salary in 1959-60, but expenses were budgeted for his performance of agreed volunteer duties. It is understood that in 1960, on release from his present pastoral responsibilities, Lee Ball will assume full duties as a salaried, full time Executive Secretary with stress on needed intensive promotional field work, combined with editorial responsibility and charge of the Federation national office.

Lee Hampton Ball, born in Florida, graduated in 1929 from Union Theological Seminary, having also worked at Asbury Theological College in the South. He is a ministerial member of the New York Conference of the Methodist Church, which he serves as Conference Statistician and which he formerly served as Conference Treasurer and Business Manager. He is now pastor of the Methodist Church in Maywood, New York, and served as pastor earlier at Irvington-on-Hudson, Lake Mahopac, New Paltz, etc. For years he has been active on the Executive

Committee of MFSA, which he has also served both as Treasurer and as Vice-President. He is a leader of the Religious Freedom Committee and has a long record of courageously defending the defenseless, espousing good but unpopular causes, and championing forthrightly the underdog.

1959-60 is a Year of Transition then to a new era of advance under full time executive leadership. Loyal MFSA members and friends, and **Bulletin** readers are called on to support MFSA and its new Executive Secretary by generous contributions to wipe out the \$2200 deficit and build up the needed fund for programmatic and organizational advance, in the decisive quadrennium ahead.

Federation members from East to West attended the St. Louis meeting. The outstanding program was largely arranged by the effective committee of St. Louis members. Speakers in addition to those listed in the May **Bulletin** included Mr. Ronald Ball, author of a history of MFSA and student at Perkins School of Theology in Texas, speaking on "Some High-lights of MFSA History;" and Mr. Frank Wilkinson, Secretary, Citizens Committee to Preserve American Freedom, Los Angeles, speaking on "Preserving American Freedoms" with stress on the current legislative assault on the Supreme Court's Civil Liberties decisions. The panel on "Bomb-Testing and the Peace," was chaired by Dr. Barry Commoner, Professor, Plant Physiology, Washington University; and shared by Dr. Eugene Feenberg, Professor of Physics, Washington University; and Dr. Irwin Herskowitz, Associate Professor of Biology, St. Louis University. All three scientists are connected with the educationally effective Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information. Some of the St. Louis speeches are included in this **Bulletin**.

The meeting devoted needed time to urgent organizational business and adopted for the coming year programmatic resolutions, some of which follow.

Proposals for German Settlement

Heartened by the participation of our Government in the Foreign Ministers' Conference on the Berlin and German questions—in promised preparation for summit conference, we commend our Government for this participation and urge it to apply to the German question the pattern it helped create and negotiate with the same three other major powers in Austria: neutralization of Germany and guarantees of its non-alignment with either military bloc, East or West, against the other. We believe the German people themselves (through free, democratic elections) should have the final say regarding their socio-economic order—provided only that the system decided upon be peaceful—free from the military threat which has characterized Germany's relations to her neighbors in the past two generations and which understandably gives concern to other European peoples today.

We further urge that both zones of Germany, along with Poland and Czechoslovakia, comprise or be a part of a demilitarized, denuclearized, internationally inspected zone in Europe and Asia—as a practical interim measure pending general or universal and thorough disarmament, and elimination and outlawry of all nuclear weapons everywhere.

Lewis Strauss Nomination

In view of his record in withholding information from the public on the hazard of radioactive fallout, we urge the Senate to vote not to confirm Lewis L. Strauss as Secretary of Commerce.

Support for Supreme Court Decisions

The historic and constitutional role of the Supreme Court is to act as guardian of the Bill of Rights in the American governmental system. The Court is under attack for its recent decisions on civil liberties, which MFSA supports. We affirm the right and duty of the Court to make such moral decisions, and deplore such attacks on the Court and its decisions, as that by the American Bar Association. We ask all Americans to uphold the arbiter of the supreme law of the land. We ask Congress to defeat the anti-Court Senate bills 1299-1305, introduced by Senator Eastland, and the companion measures introduced in the House by Congressman Walter.

Support Civil Liberties Victims

We call on the Department of Justice to drop prosecution of Carl Braden of Louisville and Frank Wilkinson of Los Angeles, and others charged with contempt of Congress for refusing to cooperate with the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The Justice Department should stop supporting the House Committee on Un-American Activities in its attacks on integrationists, civil liberties leaders, and others working for freedom and justice. The Executive branch of our government should not support violations of civil liberties by the House Committee. We ask the Justice Department to dismiss all charges against John and Sylvia Powell and Julian Schuman. We urge the Immigration Service to dismiss deportation proceedings against David Hyun of Los Angeles and William Heikkila of San Francisco. We urge members of our fellowship to write the respective government authorities and their congressmen on each of these cases, and to render all possible financial and moral support to these and related cases.

PRESIDENT LOYD F. WORLEY'S 1959 REPORT

As our Federation fellowship meets in St. Louis in 1959, the year before General Conference, some of us recall the meeting in Kansas City, Missouri in 1947, the year before General Conference. At that time there was released a series of articles about the Federation which were false and misleading. At about the same time one of the nations, allied with ours against Nazi Germany in World War II, began to pursue an independent policy in search of security which brought disappointment to many friends who had hoped for the best from the Russian experiment. While this experiment seemed extreme to us in our tradition it was evident that the pendulum had swung vigorously away from the old feudal order. The comradeship of the Second World War and the mutually high motivation in the establishment of the United Nations made us unprepared for some later excesses of the Russian government. While some attitudes may be accounted for if not excused we should never be allowed to forget our own war-time and post-war policies which our enemies recall with as much diligence as our own propaganda mills play the records of their faults. We would be more understanding of other sinful peoples if we were reminded more often of our internment camps for Americans of Japanese ancestry; our lengthening of hostilities by the demand for "unconditional surrender," our treatment of conscientious objectors, the shameful record on race relations with the recent inclusion of Little Rock, a lynching in Mississippi and the rape assault of a Negro girl by four white men in Florida; our reversal of policy on Manchuria at Yalta after the solemn promises made at the Cairo conference. This betrayal of China leads in a direct line to the war in Korea where again our failure to respect the stated parallel cost thousands of lives of American men and turned opinion in Asia against us. The Orient was already sensitive because of our unnecessary use of the bomb against tinted peoples and civilian cities. We need to be reminded of the old proverb about the pot calling the kettle black. A better record should have been made by a nation of our vaunted intelligence and idealism. "Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required." Let us therefore humble ourselves as Christians, as a nation, confessing our own sins, before throwing any more stones.

The Circuit-Riders, et al

Just previous to the General Conference of 1952 there appeared an article called "The Pink Fringe" in a popular magazine. With selected proof-texts, many of them out of context, often from non-Federationists and non-Methodists, a case was built up against the MFSA which deceived the public with its superficiality. Aided and abetted by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and the McCarthy hysteria, together with some bad judgment on our part the General Conference adopted par. 2031, 1952 Discipline. The MFSA was in fact condemned without an adequate hearing of the case. This action was interpreted by that freedom-loving Methodist Senator James O. Eastland as a justification of a falsehood concerning the founders of the Federation. Mention of the Federation in this way was all the proof needed by the "Circuit-Riders" in their booklet printed in February 1959 attacking the Fifth World Study Conference of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

I have given this sketchy review of history to point out how thoughtless it was to sacrifice the Federation by some who were ready to throw us to the wolves and desert to what appeared to be less vulnerable liberal groups. I have said all along that if the "Circuit-Riders" tasted the blood of a defeated MFSA they would go on to attack the next liberal group. And their spokesmen have attacked World Service because of the Board of World Peace; they have opposed the curriculum of the church school because it is said to favor integration; and now they have taken on the National Council of Churches because a study conference has shown a willingness to negotiate with the defacto government of China. When will our liberals wake up to the fact that the MFSA at least needed to run interference for other groups, or to change the figure of speech, to be a lightning rod grounding the bolts of the reactionaries.

As we approach the General Conference of 1960 let us take the offensive. We have been on the defensive long enough.

Let us ask for a brief paragraph with a simple, objective, non-controversial statement of our place and purpose as an unofficial group, raising issues for discussion and action, without committing the church as a whole.

The Central Jurisdiction

In 1956 the Federation urged legislation which would have taken the segregated Central Jurisdiction out of the Constitution of the church. But instead there was created a Commission to Study the Jurisdictional system. This commission which has been expensive to maintain will send its report in a few months to the elected delegates. There will be no recommendation which will take the Central Jurisdiction out of our Constitution. We shall have another illustration of the labor of a mountain to bring forth a mouse. We shall justly continue in shame to claim a faith supposed to be brotherly and supra-racial. I sincerely hope the MFSA will keep this issue alive. It can be done if we keep trying. Like the importunate widow in the parable of our Lord let us continue to cry out against injustice. Though we may be weak we can wear down and weary those elements in society which fear not God nor regard man.

The Methodist Publishing House

For many years of its history the MFSA and the entrenched interests of the Methodist Publishing House have been at odds. Before unification the Federation was succeeding in a measure in getting a better labor policy in harmony with the best principles of industrial democracy. Since unification those in control have flouted the principles of collective bargaining as stated in the Social Creed. The management exercises a benevolent paternalism which usually keeps up with the gains of organized labor in competing firms and our own employees get a free ride. They get the benefit of union progressive gains without paying a fair share. As late as 1956 conclusive evidence was presented of racial segregation in publishing house cafeterias, wash-rooms, in employment and in upgrading.

The Board of Publication gave out a news release demanding the eviction of the MFSA from the New York office space before notifying Federation officials. The publishing agents refused to sit down with the then President of the Federation, Bishop Francis J. McConnell to discuss the matter. The Board of Publication has instructed its employees not to allow a MFSA committee meeting in the building in Cincinnati nor to accept paid advertising announcing meetings. Here follows the copy which was refused space at the regular rates:

"SOCIAL ACTIONISTS: MFSA Annual Meeting, St. Louis, May 30.

Information, Box 327, Gresham, Oregon."

Certainly the time has come for the Methodist Church to call a halt to the dictatorship of Publishing House spokesmen.

The Need for the Federation

Bishop McConnell frequently cited the values of an unofficial group in its opportunity to say some things which needed to be said and which could not be said by an official group. So I am going to mention a few things said by officers or in articles in our Social Questions Bulletin this year over which the blanket of silence was cast in other church papers. One is the seniority rule in Congress whereby entrenched conservatives in one party states can block liberal and progressive legislation. Closely allied is the attack on the Supreme Court in an effort to hamstring decisions affecting civil liberties, etc. Another is the infamous Walter-McCarran Act with its inhuman attitude toward minorities and refugees. And mum was the word from officialdom concerning the Latin-American dictatorships of Batista, Trujillo and their ilk. It would seem that as long as their representatives voted on "our side" in the United Nations, our government was willing to supply arms in order to enable them to combat freedom loving elements in their own countries.

(To be concluded in the October issue)

OUR READERS WRITE

Dear Rev. Chamberlin:

Find enclosed \$1.00 with promise to send additional \$1.00 soon as payment on some of your literature. Sorry I cannot attend your meetings—too far and my age of 88 years. But as my father was a Peter Cooper "man" I enjoy knowing the progress made by your organization. Sincerely yours,

ELLA MAY DAVIDSON, Hood River, Oregon.